

14. (once amended) A valve plug head [retainer] assembly, as recited in claim 13, wherein said means for holding further comprises a band in contact with said valve plug head and said valve plug stem.

Sub G1
15. (once amended) A valve plug head [retainer] assembly, as recited in claim 13, wherein said means for fastening further comprises a plurality of bolts, and a plurality of nuts[, and a plug head band].

Sub
16. (once amended) A valve plug head [retainer] assembly, as recited in claim 14, wherein said band further comprises a first side and a second side and wherein said first side is greater in height than said second side.

Sub G1
17. (once amended) A valve plug head [retainer] assembly, as recited in claim 13, wherein said means for fastening further comprises [once] one or more pins.

18. (once amended) A valve plug head [retainer] assembly, as recited in claim 13, wherein said plug head is further comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of structural ceramics, cermets, cast irons, silicon irons, white irons, martensitic steels, and CrCoFe alloys.

Sub G1
19. (once amended) A valve plug head [retainer] assembly, as recited in claim 14, wherein said band further comprises a material selected from the group consisting of titanium and its alloys, zirconium and its alloys, niobium and its alloys, titanium-niobium allows, alloy steels, carbon steels, iron-base superalloys, stainless steels, nickel and its alloys, nickel-base superalloys, copper based alloys, cobalt alloys, cobalt-base superalloys, aluminum and its alloys, magnesium alloys, and tantalum.

20. (once amended) A valve plug head [retainer] assembly, as recited in claim 13, wherein said band is composed of a first material and said plug head is composed of a second material and where said first material is different from said second material.

Remarks

The numbered paragraphs of the office action are responded to through the corresponding numbered paragraphs below. The applicant has addressed each issue in turn and, for clarity, has provided a heading for each issue.

Election/Restriction

1. The Examiner indicated that the Applicant's election without traverse of claims 13-20 is acknowledged. Applicant believes that no response to this paragraph is necessary.

Claim Objections

2. The Examiner objected to claims 16, 17, 19 because certain specified informalities. The Application has requested that these claims be amended and believes that these requested amendments fully addresses the Examiner's objections. Withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

has noted that the application was filed with informal drawings which are acceptable for examination purposes only. Applicant intends to file formal drawings when the application has been allowed. Applicant believes no response is required for this paragraph.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112